

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 25, 2005

LB 577

education which are focused on K-12 may be misplaced, given the pattern of brain development.

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Brains develop rapidly in the early years, from zero to four, then develop at a much slower pace from ages four through eighteen. Did you say one minute, Mr. Chairman?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes, I did.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Then I think I will quit for now and turn my light back on. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) There are committee amendments. Senator Raikes, would you like to open the committee amendments, please?

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think I can do this fairly quickly. But there's some important points here that I do want to make sure I mention. Number one, the appropriation intent language is eliminated. This does not have to be...there does not have to be an A bill with LB 577. The second point is that as school districts become responsible financially for four-year-olds that are in a grant program, they need budget authority to support that program. So that is provided in the committee amendment. It distinguishes different types of programs and grants, based on the age of students. It prioritizes the awarding of these grants, the early childhood grants. And it requires continuity between the Early Childhood Education Programs and kindergarten instructional hours. I'll mention...expand on that very briefly. The issue arose, well, what if you've got a proposed grant program that would provide an all-day environment for four-year-olds, but there is only a half-day kindergarten offered in the K-12 school? What this says is that you would rank programs according to the correspondence between the proposed early childhood program and what is available in the way of kindergarten, so that if you had a half-day kindergarten program, then associated with that would be a half-day program for four-year-olds, and the same for full-day kindergarten. So